

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

Claims 1 and 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) A dental implant apparatus with expandable sides for locking into a predrilled hole in bone having an upper conformal socket, a hollow expansion tube with a wall having alternating ribs and open spaces, and a lower retaining nut;
said hollow expansion tube compressible along a major axis by tightening a retaining compression screw through said conformal socket, said expansion tube and said retaining nut;
and said ribs expanding outward upon the tightening of said retaining compression screw comprising said outwardly expanding ribs with a thinned portion on said ribs bowing outward to a greater distance than the thicker portion of said ribs to prevent rotation of said dental implant apparatus during installation and use, said thinned portions on said ribs alternating edges on alternate said ribs.

4. (Cancelled)

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5. (Currently amended) A dental implant apparatus as described in Claim 3 comprising a notched edge on said ribs bowing outward to a greater distance than the un-notched edge of said ribs to prevent rotation of said dental implant apparatus during installation and use, said notched edges on said ribs alternating edges of alternate said ribs.

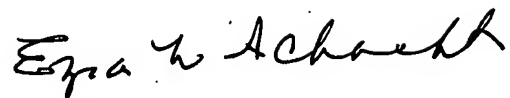
6. (Previously presented) A dental implant apparatus, as described in Claim 3, comprising outwardly expanding ribs with narrowed portions on said ribs bowing to a smaller radius than the un-narrowed portions of said ribs to prevent rotation of said dental implant apparatus during installation and use.

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7. (Previously presented) A dental implant apparatus, as described in Claim 3, comprising outwardly expanding ribs with narrowed portions on said ribs bowing to a smaller radius than the un-narrowed portions of said ribs to prevent rotation of said dental implant apparatus during installation and use, said narrowed portions on said ribs alternating edges of alternate said ribs.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously presented) A dental implant apparatus, as described in Claim 3, comprising outwardly expanding ribs, said ribs having edges that spiral about the central axis of said hollow expansion tube.
10. (Currently amended) A dental implant apparatus, as described in Claim 3, comprising a truncated conical shape to better mimic the normal root shape of a tooth.
11. (Previously presented) A dental implant apparatus, as described in Claim 3, comprising outwardly expanding ribs with spaces through portions on said ribs forming spines extending to a greater diameter than the un-spaced portions of said ribs to prevent rotation of said dental implant apparatus during installation.

Claims 12 through 16. (Cancelled.)

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ezra L. Schacht". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ezra" being more prominent.

Ezra L. Schacht

1620 West Main Street, Houston, Texas 77006

Tel: 713 523 0515 Fax: 713 523 0530

Registered Patent Agent, Number 28,261

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